



What is *Canine Crime Stoppers*?

Dog fighting is a highly visible element of neighborhood violence. An effective solution to dog fighting requires a community commitment. As a response to the escalation of dog fighting activities in Indianapolis, *Canine Crime Stoppers* was established in March 2004 and is a partnership between *Indianapolis Animal Care & Control*, *Crime Stoppers of Central Indiana* and the *Indianapolis Police Department*. The mission of *Canine Crime Stoppers* is to gain information and knowledge to put this intolerable "sport" to a stop.



Canine Crime Stoppers is a partnership of:



www.crimetips.org

Help Stop Dog Fighting!



www.crimetips.org



Dog fighting has become a serious issue within our community

In 2003, dogfighting convictions increased 400% in Indianapolis/Marion County alone. You can help prevent this cruelty to animals and other crimes by learning how to detect signs of this illegal activity and reporting suspicious activity to *Indiana Canine Crime Stoppers*.

Why should you know how to recognize and report suspected dog fighting activities?

Dog fighting is a felony act. In July 2002, the Indiana General Assembly made promoting an animal fighting contest a Class D Felony (IC 35-46-3-9.5).

Dog fighting has been linked to many other illegal and criminal activities, which could affect your friends, family, or yourself.

Law enforcement and animal welfare investigators report:

- Dog fighters are often involved in illegal gambling, the sale and possession of drugs, as well as illegal weapons.
- Dog fighters and spectators have a history of violent and criminal behavior toward people.
- Dog fighting is another entertainment activity for gangs.
- Dogs trained for fighting have been known to viciously attack innocent people for no apparent reason.

What to look for

The “Pit Bull” is commonly the dog used for dog fighting. A “Pit Bull” is also known as an American Pit Bull Terrier or American Staffordshire Terrier. However, just because your neighbor owns a Pit Bull does not mean that he or she is involved in dog fighting.

Dogs used in fighting often times have observable characteristics:

- Short ear crops
- Recent or long-standing wounds and abscesses
- Scars on the head, throat, legs, and ears
- Wide leather or web collars with heavy rings
- Puncture wounds and lacerations



Some signs of suspected dog fighting include:

- Ownership of several adult dogs and/or puppies that are confined by thick chains with or without weights on their collars;
- Tires or other items suspended from trees to provide jaw strengthening activities;
- A “cat mill” which confines a cat, rabbit or other small animal and encourages the dog to chase it. As a reward for its hard work, the dog will be permitted to capture and kill the confined animal;
- A treadmill; and
- People of all ages coming and going in groups from a residence or other site, some with dogs.

Virtually any area within the community can hold a dog fight whether it be an abandoned house, vacant garage, isolated warehouse, commercial or residential basement, secluded park or farmhouse or barn. The party-like atmosphere surrounding a dog fight is often noticeable; spectators cheer for their chosen dog as the bets stack up and the growling and barking continues, especially if other breeds of dogs are being used.

What can you do?

You may have vital information on dog fighting that police need to make your neighborhood a safer place to live, work and raise a family. *Canine Crime Stoppers* helps by allowing citizens to anonymously report suspected dog fighting activity while offering a **cash reward of up to \$1000** for information that leads to a felony arrest.

If you have any dog fighting information please call (317)262-TIPS.

Only callers to *Crime Stoppers* are eligible for the reward. Callers claim their reward through the use of an assigned code number. Remember, it’s up to you and your neighbors to spread the word that dog fighting is not acceptable in your neighborhood.

